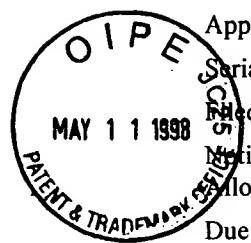


GP-3615

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Sorensen et al. Examiner: not assigned
 Serial No.: 08/949,366 Group Art Unit: 3615
 Filed: 10/14/97 Docket: 424.83US01
 Notice of Allow. Date:
 Due Date: 5/14/98
 Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS

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U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 8, 1998.

By: 
Charles E. Golla

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Other: Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449 and cited references.
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,
WELTER & SCHMIDT
3100 Norwest Center, Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 332-5300

By: 
Name: Charles E. Golla
Reg. No.: 26,896
CEG/le



MAY 11 1998

S/108/949,366

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sorensen et al. Examiner: _____
Serial No.: 08/949,366 Group Art Unit: 3615
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Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS

PATENT

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

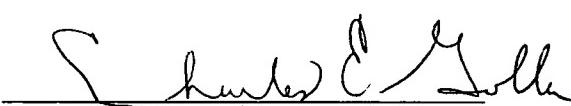
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form

1449, marked as being considered and initialled by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

8 May 1998
Date


Charles E. Golla
Reg. No. 26,896
MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,
WELTER & SCHMIDT, P.A.
3100 Norwest Center
90 South Ninth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4131
Telephone: 612/336-4786